

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DODE-00
SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 ARA-10 EUR-12 OIC-02
PA-01 ICA-11 /135 W
-----037360 130519Z /17

R 130251Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8745
INFO DOE WASHDC
DOE GERMANTOWN MD

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FOR OES/NET; T

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, JA
SUBJECT: REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CENTER IN THE PACIFIC

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT OF ARTICLE APPEARING
JUNE 11 IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MAINICHI DAILY NEWS (WE
CANNOT FIND STORY IN ANY OTHER PAPER):

2. BEGIN TEXT. JAPAN ASKED TO BACK PACIFIC N-FUEL
CENTER.

THE UNITED STATES HAS ASKED JAPAN TO TAKE A STRONG
INITIATIVE TO CONSTRUCT A REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CENTER
IN THE PACIFIC REGION, ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES.

REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CENTERS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED BY THE
UNITED STATES AS PART OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S NUCLEAR
NON-PROLIFERATION PACKAGE.

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THE IDEA IS TO SEPARATE THE WORLD INTO THREE
BLOCKS--LATIN AMERICA, EUROPE, AND THE PACIFIC
REGION--AND TO CONCENTRATE NUCLEAR FUEL STORAGE AND
REPROCESSING FACILITIES IN EACH BLOCK.

THE FACILITIES WILL BE JOINTLY USED BY COUNTRIES IN THE
SAME BLOCK.

AT THE MOMENT, THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND THE CAROLINE ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC ARE LIKELY TO BE THE LOCATION FOR THE NUCLEAR FUEL CENTER FOR THE THIRD BLOCK.

THE CENTER WILL BE JOINTLY CONSTRUCTED AND SHARE BY JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES.

THE SOURCES SAID THAT THE U.S. HAS UNOFFICIALLY SOUNDED OUT THE INTENTIONS OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT FOR LEADING THE PROJECT.

UNDER THE U.S. PROPOSAL, THE CENTER WILL HAVE AN ENRICHMENT PLANT, A REPROCESSING PLANT, AND STORAGE FACILITIES FOR PLUTONIUM AND NUCLEAR WASTES.

THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE REGIONAL CENTER WILL DISCOURAGE THE CONSTRUCTION OF SENSITIVE FACILITIES, SUCH AS REPROCESSING PLANTS, BY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, AND MAKE INTERNATIONAL SURVEILLANCE MORE EFFECTIVE AND MUCH EASIER.

THE SOURCES SAID THAT THE U.S. WILL OFFICIALLY PRESENT THE DETAILS OF THE PLANT AT A MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION (INFCE) LATER THIS YEAR.

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BUT THE U.S. PROPOSAL APPARENTLY RUNS COUNTER TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S NUCLEAR POWER POLICY.

JAPANESE POWER FIRMS ARE NOW PLANNING TO CONSTRUCT ANOTHER REPROCESSING PLANT, WITH AN ANNUAL CAPACITY OF 1,500 TONS, BY 1990.

ADDITIONALLY, THE INDUSTRY IS PLANNING TO CONCENTRATE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING, ENRICHMENT AND STORAGE FACILITIES ON AN ISLAND OFF HOKKAIDO.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE UTILITIES WILL HAVE TO SHORTLY MAKE A CRUCIAL CHOICE--WHETHER TO FOLLOW THE U.S. PROPOSAL OR GO ON WITH THEIR OWN AMBITIOUS NUCLEAR PROJECTS. END TEXT.

3. REPORTER FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR CALLED EMBASSY JUNE 12, SEEKING MORE DETAILS AND ASKING FOR CONFIRMATION. EMBOFF REFERRED HIM TO DEPT. AND DOE, STATING THAT IDEA OF PACIFIC ISLAND SPENT FUEL STORAGE WAS ONE OF MANY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY USG, GOJ, AND PROBABLY INFCE. EMBOFF REFUSED TO CONFIRM THAT ISLAND

SITE WAS NOW "U.S. POLICY".

4. FYI: IT APPEARS TO US THAT DETAILS OF USG/GOJ
BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS OF LAST WEEK OR EARLIER ARE
BEGINNING TO LEAK. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US TO KNOW
WHAT CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED AT LAST WEEK'S MEETING,
AS WELL AS WHAT CAN BE SAID PUBLICLY ABOUT ANY EMERGING
POLICY ON REGIONAL SPENT FUEL STORAGE OR REPROCESSING
FACILITIES. END FYI. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL, PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO10683
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780246-0243
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780663/aaaacclx.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 92b4bc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2366660
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CENTER IN THE PACIFIC
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, SOPN, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/92b4bc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014